

There was no objection.

#### TENSAS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2660) to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 2, after line 12 insert:

#### SEC. 2. BAYOU SAUVAGE URBAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) REFUGE EXPANSION.—Section 502(b)(1) of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-645; 100 Stat. 3590), is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "In addition, the Secretary may acquire, within such period as may be necessary, an area of approximately 4,228 acres, consisting of approximately 3,928 acres located north of Interstate 10 between Little Woods and Pointe-aux-Herbes and approximately 300 acres south of Interstate 10 between the Maxent Canal and Michoud Boulevard that contains the Big Oak Island archaeological site, as depicted on the map entitled "Bayou Sauvage Urban National Wildlife Refuge Expansion", dated August, 1996, on file with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON].

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on April 23 of this year, the House overwhelmingly adopted H.R. 2660, a bill introduced by our colleague from Louisiana, JIM MCCRERY, to increase the authorization level for the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge.

The other body has not acted on this legislation and while they made no changes in the Tensas River provision, they did add a new title to the bill dealing with the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana.

This refuge was established in 1986 to protect 19,000 areas of coastal wetlands. In fact, the refuge, which is located within the corporate limits of the city of New Orleans, has the distinction of having the largest amount of coastal wetlands in the United States that is easily accessible to city residents.

Title II of H.R. 2660 will allow the Secretary of the Interior to acquire an additional 4,228 acres of land. According to the authors of this provision, the inclusion of this property within the refuge will enhance the populations of migratory, shore, and wading birds, protect threatened and endangered species, encourage natural diversity of fish and wildlife species, and provide valuable opportunities to the public for

environmental education on some of our Nation's essential coastal wetlands.

I am pleased to present this bill to the House and strongly believe that these modifications in two refuge units in Louisiana are consistent with the fundamental goals of our National Wildlife Refuge System.

I urge a vote in favor of H.R. 2660 and compliment JIM MCCRERY for his outstanding leadership in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I support this piece of legislation. It expands our national wildlife refuge system. It authorizes land acquisition in the State of Louisiana for the protection and conservation of wildlife. The administration also has given its support of this legislation. I want to commend the gentleman from Louisiana who is the chief sponsor of this legislation. I urge the adoption of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Shreveport, LA [Mr. MCCRERY], the author of this bill.

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the chairman of the subcommittee, for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] for his kind remarks, and also the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS], the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, for their help and cooperation in getting this bill to the floor.

Also, as we all know, staff always play an important part in getting legislation through the various hoops and hurdles in the legislative process, and I want to thank the staff of the subcommittee as well for their hard work, particularly Harry Burroughs.

This bill, as Chairman SAXTON explained, would increase to \$20 million the authorization for land purchases in the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge encompasses 64,000 acres in two parishes, or counties, in my district, Tensas and Madison Parishes, and the refuge is home to some of the Nation's rarest species, including the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon.

The Tensas Refuge also hosts the largest remaining population of the endangered Louisiana black bear. Also, a wide variety of plant species are found in this tract, including the largest tract of bottomland hardwoods remaining in the Mississippi River delta.

So it is a very important piece of land, and we want to preserve it for future generations. We have done a good job in seeing to that so far.

This bill, by the way, will not enlarge the boundaries of the refuge. It simply will allow us to purchase from willing sellers inholdings within the current boundaries of the refuge, and this will make management of the area easier and more effective, and no land will be purchased from anyone other than willing sellers and owners of inholdings in this existing refuge.

In closing, let me again thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. STUDDS], and the members of the subcommittee and the full committee for their support in getting this legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support it and urge its approval.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2660.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate amendments to H.R. 2660.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### WYOMING FISH AND WILDLIFE FACILITY

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1802) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain property containing a fish and wildlife facility to the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1802

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey in "as is" condition, to the State of Wyoming without reimbursement—

(A) all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the portion of the property commonly known as "Ranch A" in Crook County, Wyoming, other than the portion described in paragraph (2), consisting of